

**Georgia Department of Transportation  
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION**

These instructions are provided to assist sponsors and their consultants in completing the CE form for TE projects. Since the CE form is used for many types of projects, some of the items may not directly apply to your TE project. Nevertheless, a response is required for all items.

A completed environmental commitment table printed on green paper is to be submitted with the completed CE form. A sample commitment table follows.

A project location map should also be included as part of the CE. PLEASE MAKE SURE ALL APPLICABLE STREET/ROAD NAMES ARE LABELED ON THE MAP.

If you have any questions about a particular project issue, or questions about completing either the Ecology Worksheet or the Categorical Exclusion (CE) you may contact the Program Manager.

For a list of GDOT prequalified consultants please see:

<http://www.dot.state.ga.us/dot/preconstruction/consultantdesign/prequal.shtml>

The CE cannot be submitted to GDOT/OEL until the Section 106 concurrence letter has been received from SHPO. All concurrence letters from SHPO should be included in the Correspondence section of the CE along with the approval of the Ecology Worksheet (Section 106).

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS/REQUIREMENTS

Project No. :    STP-XXXX-00 (XXX)	404	Specialist Review _____
County :	Air/Noise	_____
P.I. No. :        1234567	Archaeology	_____
Status:            CE or Environmental Reevaluation	Ecology	_____
Date Updated :    This date should match each submission	History	_____

COMMITMENT/REQUIREMENT	DOCUMENT STIPULATED IN	RESPONSIBLE OFFICE (Concurrence date; if other than OEL)	PLACE ON PLANS? (Yes or No)	REQUIRES A SPECIAL PROVISION? (Yes or No)	STATUS (Pre-Construction: Complete/ Incomplete) (During Construction: ECB Signature upon completion) (Post Construction: Complete/Incomplete)
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### Pre-Construction Commitments

All Product and placement information regarding new benches, lighting, signage, and landscaping should be submitted to SHPO for review.	SHPO letter dated	Sponsor	No	No	Incomplete
Historic granite curbing will be retained to the maximum extent possible.	SHPO letter dated	Sponsor	Yes	No	Incomplete
Preliminary plans and 90% complete construction plans should be submitted to HPD for review and comment.	SHPO letter dated	Sponsor	No	No	Incomplete
Site visits to be coordinated with HPD upon 50% and 100% completion of the project	SHPO letter dated	Sponsor	No	No	Incomplete
Historic/Archaeological site boundaries will be placed on plans. Notes on the plans will state that no staging of equipment will occur within the boundaries.	CE	Sponsor	Yes	No	Incomplete
All streams and wetlands will be delineated on plans.	CE	Sponsor	Yes	No	Incomplete

COMMITMENT/REQUIREMENT	DOCUMENT STIPULATED IN	RESPONSIBLE OFFICE (Concurrence date; if other than OEL)	PLACE ON PLANS? (Yes or No)	REQUIRES A SPECIAL PROVISION? (Yes or No)	STATUS (Pre-Construction: Complete/ Incomplete) (During Construction: ECB Signature upon completion) (Post Construction: Complete/Incomplete)
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**During Construction Commitments**

NONE					
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**Post Construction Commitments**

NONE					
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**REMOVE THIS BOX WHEN USING THIS TEMPLATE**

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) requires that any stipulations set forth by the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) in the Section 106 letter of concurrence should be added to the environmental commitment table.

This example Environmental Commitment table includes the common stipulations set forth by SHPO in the Section 106 concurrence letter. Please only include those commitments that apply to your project. If you have no Environmental commitments you still must include the table with **NONE** listed under the commitments column.

Additional Environmental commitments would include obtaining permits or stream buffer variances, UST testing, required coordination with state or federal agencies, and any other commitments you would be making as part of the CE process.

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
STATE OF GEORGIA**

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**Categorical Exclusion**

**I. General Information**

Project ID                      **STP-XXXX-00 (XXX)**  
P.I. No.                        **1234567**                      STIP/TIP No.                      0001505  
Structure ID No.              N/A **(For Bridges only)**              Sufficiency Rating              N/A **(For Bridges only)**  
Project Name  
Project Limits

**II. Need And Purpose** (See Attachment **[Indicate Attachment #]**)

**III. Project Description** (See Attachment **[Indicate Attachment #]** and Concept Report, Attachment #3)

Existing:                      **You should include the existing conditions and features of the project area.**

Proposed:                      It is recommended that you use the *Project Description* from the Concept Report on both **the Ecology Worksheet (Section 106) and** CE to avoid discrepancies in the scope of the project. The *Project Description* in the Section 106 should include all work the project will, or could entail. It is better to have a larger project scope approved in the Section 106, which can be narrowed in the CE, because once the Section 106 is approved, any changes that would **broaden** the *Project Description* in the CE could necessitate the Section 106 having to be resubmitted and reapproved. If the *Project Description* is extensive, you may add this to Attachment 1. Simply note "See Attached" on the CE form.

The following statement should be included in the *Project Description*: "All construction will conform to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations." The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is the most comprehensive federal civil-rights statute protecting the rights of people with disabilities. It affects access to employment; state and local government programs and services; access to places of public accommodation such as businesses, transportation, and non-profit service providers; and telecommunications.

Please make sure to mark which "Other Actions" you have completed. Very often it is not noted that the Section 106 Compliance has been requested. In order to submit the CE the Section 106 has to have been approved by the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO).

**IV. Class Of Action – Categorical Exclusion**

<b>A. Actions Requiring Concurrences</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Section 4(f) Evaluation		
Section 106/Assessment Of Effects Required	<b>X</b>	
Endangered Species/Section 7 Consultation		
USFWS Coordination For Longitudinal Stream Encroachments		
<b>B. Public Involvement</b>		
A public hearing open house is not required. A public information open house <b>is/is not scheduled.</b> Approval of this Categorical Exclusion constitutes acceptance of the location and design concepts for this project.		

## V. Effects Evaluation

The effects evaluation form categories are defined as follows:

1. Involvement: A resource is affected by the proposed project (e.g. wetland impact, stream impact, etc.).
2. No Involvement: A resource is within the Area of Potential Effect, but the project would not affect the resource (e.g. historic resources along corridor but no affect to them).
3. None: The resource does not exist within the Area of Potential Effect.

If you choose **Involvement** or **No Involvement** you **must** include an explanation as part of Attachment 1.

<b>B. Social Environment</b>	Involvement	No Involvement	None	See Attachment
1. Land Use Changes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2. Community Cohesion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3. Relocation Potential	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4. Churches and Institutions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5. Parks/Recreation Areas/Wildlife Refuges	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6. Title VI/E.O 12898	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
7. Public Controversy Potential	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8. Public Involvement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
9. Economic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10. Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

<b>B. Cultural Environment</b>	Involvement	No Involvement	None	See Attachment
1. Historic Sites	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2. Archaeological Sites	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3. Section 4(f) Applicability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

<b>C. Natural Environment</b>	Involvement	No Involvement	None	See Attachment
1. Water Quality/303(d) List	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2. Wetlands/Open Waters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3. Streams	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4. Wild or Scenic Rivers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5. Essential Fisheries Habitat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6. Floodplains	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
7. Farmlands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8. Endangered/Threatened Species	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
9. Invasive Species	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10. Migratory Birds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11. Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

<b>D. Physical Environment</b>	Involvement	No Involvement	None	See Attachment
1. Noise	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2. Air	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3. Energy/Mineral Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4. Construction/Utilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5. UST's	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6. Hazardous Waste Sites	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

<b>E. Permits/Variations/Commitments Required</b>	Yes	No	See Attachment
1. U.S. Coast Guard Permit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2. Forest Service/Corps Land	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3. Section 404	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4. Tennessee Valley Authority	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5. Stream Buffer Variance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6. Coastal Zone Management Coordination	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
7. Other Commitments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Green Sheet

**Prepared By:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
For: Project Sponsor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Reviewed &  
Recommended  
By:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
For: Moreland-Altobelli Associates, Inc.,MAAI

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Concurred By:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
For: Glenn Bowman, P.E.  
State Environmental /Location Engineer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Approved By:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
For: Rodney N. Barry  
Division Administrator  
Federal Highway Administration

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Attachments Appear in the Following Order:**

1. Effects Evaluation
2. Correspondence
3. Concept Report
4. Public Meeting Summary (if applicable)
5. List additional attachments (if necessary)

You should only include the attachments that are being included in your submission. Please make sure the attachment numbers match your attachments.

## CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION ATTACHMENT 1

[Delete sub-categories that have no impacts, but leave numbering to correspond to CE form]

### V. EFFECTS EVALUATION

#### A. SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT

1. **Land Use Changes** – Land Use has two components: 1. Change in land use within the footprint of the project. 2. Change in land use of adjacent properties. You will have to decide if there is an actual change in the use of the land. If so, state what the change would be, ex. A railroad bed is being converted into a trail, then include the following verbiage if appropriate:

Land use in the proposed project area is **[commercial, residential, industrial, etc.]**. The project is consistent with the current land use plan and would not precipitate land use changes or change development patterns.

2. **Community Cohesion** – TE projects will often have positive benefits for the community, such as providing greater non-motorized travel options; the enhancement of a streetscape may improve aesthetics of the community; or it may connect recreational areas that before were independent.
3. **Relocation Potential** – This is in regard to whether or not any homes or businesses will have to be moved because of the TE Project, not whether the TE Project itself has an option of being relocated.
4. **Churches and Institutions** – Analyze what effects the TE Project will have on churches and/or in institutions, which are within the project area. If there are no churches or institutions within the project area then you should mark, "Not Applicable."
5. **Parks/Recreation Areas/Wildlife Refuges** – If none of these areas are within your project corridor then you can answer "None." If your project does include these areas please include the following verbiage:

There is **[number]** **[Parks/Recreation Areas/Wildlife Refuges]** of **[local, state, or national]** significance located in the project corridor. Temporary easements/right-of-way from the facility of approximately **[give dimensions of length and width]** will be necessary for the construction of the proposed project. Therefore, project implementation would **[not]** affect parkland.

**Please note:** If the project sponsor is not the owner of the facility GDOT will require written permission from the owner for your project to be constructed on their property. Please contact the Program Manager for the proper form. Also see the Section 4(f) discussion under B. Cultural Environment, 3. Section 4(f) Applicability.

6. **Title VI Considerations** – Under this consideration, "No person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, will be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance." This is not generally applicable to TE Projects, therefore you can mark, "Not Applicable."
7. **Public Controversy Potential** – Public controversy potential should cite effects that have the potential to cause controversy and any steps that will or have been taken to minimize those effects. Project benefits that would offset the adverse effects associated with the controversy can also be cited.
8. **Public Involvement** – Public involvement includes a discussion of meetings that have been held, when, where, how many attended, a summary of comments, etc. This section should cite concerns that were raised by the public and any efforts made to address those concerns.

9. **Economic** – Please add the following verbiage:  
The amount of additional right-of-way needed to implement the proposed project would be minimal and would not result in significant effects on the tax bases for \_\_\_\_\_ County or the City of \_\_\_\_\_. Sales volumes for some area businesses may temporarily drop during the actual construction of the project; however, following construction, area businesses should benefit from the expected improvement in access and increases in traffic volumes. Newly planned developments would be provided with appropriate access.
10. **Other** – If your project has any other items you feel would fall under the category of Social Environment they should be addressed here.

**B. CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT**

1. **Historic Sites** – This has been addressed in the Section 106 Worksheet; however, you must document any historic resources within the project corridor and the eligibility determination and the effect regarding the resource(s) made by SHPO in their concurrence letter.
2. **Archaeology** – This has been addressed in the Section 106 Worksheet; however, you must document any archaeological resources within the project corridor and the eligibility determination regarding the effect to the resource(s) made by SHPO in their concurrence letter.
3. **Section 4(f) Applicability** – Section 4(f) resources consist of publicly owned parks, recreation areas, wildlife refuges, and public/private historic sites that are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Section 4(f) land cannot be used for U.S. DOT-funded transportation projects unless it is determined that *no feasible and prudent alternative exists*. TE projects are subject to the 4(f) requirements, but an analysis must be made to determine if a protected resource is affected and whether there is a transportation use of the 4(f) resource. The *FHWA Final Guidance for Transportation Enhancement Activities, December 17, 1999*, provides detailed information on applying Section 4(f) requirements for TE projects. In general, if ownership of the land is not being changed, then it is not considered a transportation use of the 4(f) resource and Section 4(f) requirements do not apply. If property from the 4(f) resource is being converted into a transportation facility (this includes sidewalks), then after consideration of any impact avoidance, minimization, and mitigation or **enhancement measures, results in a *de minimis* impact on that property, an analysis of avoidance alternatives is not required and the Section 4(f) evaluation process is complete.**

If the Section 4(f) resource is an historic resource, a letter must be obtained from the SHPO.

If the Section 4(f) resource is a public area, then a letter from the owner of the property must be obtained not only providing permission to utilize their property, but also stating that the project would have no adverse effect or impair current activities.

If a 4(f) resource is present within your project corridor please include the following verbiage:

Section 4(f) refers to the temporary and/or permanent use and constructive use of land from a significant publicly owned public park, recreation area, or wildlife and waterfowl refuge, or any significant historic site. Investigation of the project corridor has identified no use of such lands or sites; therefore, no Section 4(f) Evaluation is required.

**OR**



Section 4(f) refers to the temporary and/or permanent use and constructive use of land from a significant publicly owned public park, recreation area, or wildlife and waterfowl refuge, or any significant historic site. Investigation of the project corridor has identified \_\_\_\_\_. Although the proposed project would not require temporary and/or permanent use of land, it would involve the resource by \_\_\_\_\_. However, because there would be no substantial impairment of the current activities, features, or attributes that qualify the resource for protection under Section 4(f), there would be no indirect effects to the resource. Therefore, no Section 4(f) Evaluation is required.

**If you believe that your project would impact a Section 4(f) protected resource please consult the GDOT Program Manager for assistance.**

### C. NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

There are several types of TE Projects: **streetscape enhancements, restoration of historic transportation facilities (i.e. depots), and trail projects**, among others. With streetscapes, facility restorations, or in-town projects the project area generally consists almost entirely of previously disturbed areas. Examples include: streetscapes with existing sidewalks and decorative elements, historic buildings, pedestrian enhancements, and rails-to-trails projects, where the trail would be located solely within an existing railbed. The majority of these projects would have no effect or minimal effects on the natural environment. Generally you will be able to answer "Not Applicable," unless any clearing of vegetation would be done as part of the project.

Other projects, such as trails that would be located on undisturbed/undeveloped areas including wooded areas, overgrown abandoned sites, or riverwalks that border wetlands, could involve wetlands, streams, or areas that are undisturbed. If so, you will have to check into each of the items in this section. Most likely an ecology survey and report would be required. Depending on the natural resources that are effected you may need to coordinate with certain local, state, or federal agencies.

1. **Water Quality** – If applicable, it will be necessary to identify GDNR stream classifications, water quality management unit, hydrologic map cataloging unit, and whether or not there are any surface water intakes downstream of the project. Determine whether streams in the project area are listed on the Clean Water Act 303(d) list of impaired waters and how runoff from the project would be managed during and after construction.

**EPA website:**

[http://oaspub.epa.gov/waters/state\\_rept.control?p\\_cycle=1998&p\\_state=GA](http://oaspub.epa.gov/waters/state_rept.control?p_cycle=1998&p_state=GA)

If your project would affect water quality, please include the following verbiage:

**[Accompanies Wetland Finding] [Discuss DNR classification; identify HUC; surface water intakes, etc.]** No significant impacts to the water quality in the project area are expected to occur as a result of the proposed project.

Provisions in the construction contract would require the contractor to exercise every reasonable precaution during construction to prevent the pollution of streams in the project vicinity. Where possible, early revegetation of disturbed areas would be accomplished so as to hold soil movement to a minimum. Dumping of chemicals, fuels, lubricants, bitumens, raw sewage, or other harmful wastes into or alongside of streams or impoundments, or natural or manmade channels leading thereto, would be prohibited.

Additional contract provisions would require the use of temporary erosion control measures as shown on the construction plans or as deemed necessary during construction. These temporary measures may include the use of berms, dikes, dams, sediment basins, fiber mats, netting, gravel, mulches, grasses, slope drains, and other erosion control devices or methods, as applicable. These provisions are coordinated with the permanent erosion control features insofar as practical to assure economical, effective, and continuous erosion control throughout the construction and post-construction periods and are in accordance with the 23 CFR, Part 650, Subpart B.

**2. Wetlands** – If there is a possibility that the project would have an impact to wetlands you would need to coordinate with the **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)** as follows:

- If coastal/navigable waters were to be impacted, the USACE would need to determine if a Section 10 Permit is necessary.
- If wetlands were to be impacted, the USACE would need to determine if a Section 404 permit is necessary.
- If a boardwalk is being built, which would include no fill, but would require pilings, coordination with the USACE and the **Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GDNR)** would be necessary.

USACE Savannah

District: <http://www.sas.usace.army.mil/>

Jacksonville District: [http://www.saj.usace.army.mil](http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/)

Mobile District: [http://www.sam.usace.army.mil](http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/)

GDNR website: <http://www.gadnr.org/>

If wetlands are involved **an Ecology Report would be necessary**. Your consultant would need to provide the information that should be included in the CE from the Ecology Report. Generally they would include the following:

**[For resources identified within the project's area of potential effect:**

- **Identify and describe** the resource. Be sure to include its location.
- **State** the wetland findings.
- **Describe impacts/effects** (even if they are not considered adverse). If the effects are not adverse or are considered minimal, explain why.
- **If there are adverse effects**, explain why we cannot avoid.
  - **Discuss minimization** efforts and why we cannot further minimize.
  - **Discuss mitigation** or state that none is required.
- Discuss what has been done for **coordination** and what coordination remains to be done.
- If there is no adverse effect, discuss minimization.
- Be sure to include a resource location map that shows the resource in relation to the proposed construction.

**3. Streams** - Describe type (intermittent, perennial), size (width, depth), general description including bank type and streambed substrate, and linear feet of stream to be impacted. Also explain avoidance alternates, and why they are not practicable and prudent. Discuss mitigation that will be provided.

If streams are involved **an Ecology Report might be necessary**. Your consultant would need to provide the information that should be included in the CE from the Ecology Report. Generally they would include the following:

**[For resources identified within the project's area of potential effect:**

- **Identify and describe** the resource. Be sure to include its location.
- **Describe impacts/effects** (even if they are not considered adverse). If the effects are not adverse or are considered minimal, explain why.
- **If there are adverse effects**, explain why we cannot avoid.
  - **Discuss minimization** efforts and why we cannot further minimize.
  - **Discuss mitigation** or state that none is required.
- Discuss what has been done for **coordination** and what coordination remains to be done.
- If there is no adverse effect, discuss minimization.
- Be sure to include a resource location map that shows the resource in relation to the proposed construction.

**Longitudinal Encroachment and or Channel Change** – If your project would cause either a longitudinal encroachment or a channel change, coordination with the USFWS under the Fish and Wildlife Act would be required. This coordination would

4. **Wild/Scenic Rivers** – The only designated river in Georgia is the Chattooga River, located in northeast Georgia. Therefore, it is unlikely that many TE Projects would affect Wild/Scenic Rivers; therefore you can answer “Not Applicable.”
5. **Essential Fisheries Habitat** – Most TE Project would not affect essential fisheries habitat so you can answer “Not Applicable.”
6. **Floodplains** – You must determine if the project is within a floodplain, and would encroach on the floodplain or floodway. If it encroaches on the floodway, you would need to coordinate with the **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)**, the **GDNR**, and also the **local/county floodplain coordinator**. This is especially important if you plan to add fill. If the project does indeed fall with a floodplain, you must note that you are not putting any fill above grade. If you are building anything over a floodplain, for example, a bridge, you must also coordinate with FEMA and GDNR.

FEMA map center website:

<http://msc.fema.gov/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/CategoryDisplay?catalogId=10001&storeId=10001&categoryId=12001&langId=-1&userType=G&type=1>

If there is fill in floodplains, design must assure no significant encroachment as defined by 23 CFR 650.105.

If it is determined that your project does fall within a floodplain you should add the following verbiage, as appropriate:

A survey of the project corridor for floodplains as required by the provisions of Executive Order 11988 has identified a transverse crossing of the 100-year floodplain associated with \_\_\_\_\_ Creek (see attached map). Construction of the project could require the placement of fill material in the floodplain. The project would be designed in such a way that it would have no significant encroachment on this floodplain. The project would not represent a significant risk to life or property; it would not have a significant impact on natural and beneficial floodplain values; it would not support incompatible floodplain development; and it would not interrupt or terminate a transportation facility which is needed for emergency vehicles or provides a community's only evacuation route.

**[DISCUSS REGULATORY FLOODWAY, ETC. [IF APPLICABLE]**

\_\_\_\_\_ An encroachment on the regulatory floodway associated with \_\_\_\_\_ Creek would occur as a result of the proposed \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_. The \_\_\_\_\_ would be designed to minimize impacts on this regulatory floodway. Procedures for Coordinating Highway Encroachments on Floodplains with the Federal Emergency Management Agency are being followed, and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources has been notified of the project's involvement.

7. **Farmlands** – If any farmland would be impacted by the proposed project, it would be necessary to coordinate with the **Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)**. A U.S. Department of Agriculture Form AD-1006 to determine farmland effects would be required. This form can be found at the end of this document.

If farmland would be affected add the following verbiage:

The project is being developed in compliance with provisions of the National Farmland Protection Policy Act. In accordance with 7 CFR, Part 658, criteria have been applied to determine effects to farmland, and the project is compatible with the provisions of the National Farmland Protection Policy Act. The project would displace approximately **XX** acres of farmland, which represent about **XX**% of the total required right-of-way.

8. **Threatened/Endangered Species (T&E)** – It will be necessary to determine if any listed species or habitats suitable to support listed species occur within the project's area of effect. If it is determined that listed species would be impacted by the project, a Biological Assessment must be prepared and submitted to the **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)**. This would need to be completed by a consultant prequalified in Ecology with GDOT.

USFWS website: [http://www.fws.gov/athens/endangered/counties\\_endangered.html](http://www.fws.gov/athens/endangered/counties_endangered.html)

-If the project is a streetscape project, you will not necessarily need to survey for threatened & endangered species as long as no clearing of vegetation would occur.

-If it is a trail project use the following guidelines:

**Step 1:** Decide if the project area has the potential for impacts. If no clearing of vegetation or activities that would impact T&E would occur outside of previously disturbed areas, **then T&E would not be necessary**. You can answer "Not Applicable."

**Step 2:** For a preliminary study of habitat, the description of habitat requirements for the listed species should be examined. If suitable habitat were not present for a particular species, generally that species would not be present. Example: If the project crosses a stream, there may be potential habitat for aquatic species. If this is the case, it must be proven that either the characteristics of the stream do not meet the requirements of the species or the species is not present in the stream.

To determine impacts to T&E, use either of the following methods:

1. Walk-through: A qualified individual should conduct a site survey to determine whether or not suitable habitats for listed species are actually present. If none are found, coordinate with the USFWS, advising that no habitat for listed species were identified. The USFWS would respond with their determination. This response should be attached to the CE. **If habitat**

**for any listed species were identified, a full ecology survey and report would be required.**

2. T&E Survey: A full T&E survey, conducted by a consultant prequalified in Ecology by GDOT, should be performed if suitable habitats for any listed species are known or found to exist within the project area. A T&E report should be prepared and attached to the CE. FHWA would then forward this to USFWS. If the T&E survey determines that the project would impact a listed species, a Biological Assessment would be required.

**Please note:** If you have determined that habitat is not available for listed species within the project area, but your photographs suggest that habitat is available, you will need to justify your determination and possibly coordinate with USFWS. If at the time of construction habitat were identified, mitigation would then be the responsibility of the **project sponsor** and could delay construction.

**\*\*If your project falls into the following categories you need to include the paragraph following the bulleted points.**

- construction of bicycle and pedestrian lanes in urbanized areas,
- intersection improvements in urbanized areas,
- highway resurfacing,
- construction of highway safety of traffic operations or improvement projects,
- alterations to facilities to make them handicapped accessible, and
- rehabilitations of grade separated road crossings.

Per the June 24, 2003 Endangered Species Act Joint Coordination Procedures (JCP), the proposed project is of the type listed in Appendix A of the JCP and, therefore, will have no effect on federally listed species or habitat. However, obligations under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act must be reconsidered if: (1) new information reveals impacts of this identified action that may affect listed species or habitat in a manner not previously considered; (2) a new species is listed or habitat is determined that may be affected by the identified action; or, (3) the project is modified in a manner not previously considered.

**\*\*If your project is not one of the types listed above, the species and habitat descriptions should be included in the CE, even if no habitat is available. The federal/county listed species table needs to be included in the CE, unless the project is of the type listed in Appendix A of the JCP. You should include candidate species, since it is not known when they might be listed. Candidate species can be found on the GDNR website at:**

<http://georgiawildlife.dnr.state.ga.us/content/displaycontent.asp?txtDocument=89&txtPage=6>

An **example** of the species and habitat verbiage follows:

Field surveys were conducted to identify and/or determine the likely existence of individual protected species within the survey area. However, once a determination was made that suitable habitat for a particular species did not exist within the survey area, no further investigation for that species was conducted. Aquatic sampling of streams was not conducted since suitable habitat for protected fish and shellfish does not exist in the survey area. OR A fish/mussel survey was conducted.

Table **X** lists the Federal and state listing status, habitat requirements, and a determination regarding the existence of suitable habitat and expected impacts, within the survey area, for species with known ranges that include **XXX** County. Detailed

descriptions and survey findings for those protected species with known ranges that include XXX County are grouped by type and listed below.

**Modify the example paragraph below as needed:**

Field surveys revealed that potential habitat for Federally listed threatened and endangered species does not exist in the survey area. Suitable habitat does potentially exist for the following Federal species of concern: Bachman's sparrow, Appalachian Bewick's wren and Southeastern American kestrel. However, these species were not identified during field surveys. Furthermore, due to the disturbed nature of the natural communities located within the survey area, the likelihood is low that these areas could support rare species. Based on these results, the proposed project is not expected to have an adverse affect on protected species or protected species habitat.

**Table X: Federally Listed Species Know to Occur in Your Project's County**

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status	Habitat	Habitat Available (Yes/No)	Species Impact Expected
<i>Faunal Species</i>			{Remove Instructions: Summarize Habitat Description or State None}		{Remove instructions: No Effect/Not Likely to Effect/Will Adversely Effect}
<i>Floral Species</i>					

Key: T = Threatened; E = Endangered

**(Give details below for all federally listed species and Species of Concern that were identified. Be sure finding tells why it was determined that suitable habitat is not available in the survey area if that is the finding.)**

**Southern Bald Eagle (Scientific Name) - Threatened. – Summarize, include supporting information on the species' current biological status.** Bald eagles occur only in North America and are found throughout most of the U.S. and Canada. Habitats include riparian areas along the coast and near major rivers, wetlands, and reservoirs. Bald eagles typically nest in large, tall open-topped pines near open water. They feed primarily on fish, but will also take a variety of birds, mammals and turtles. In the southeast, breeding begins in late September and egg laying peaks in late December. The bald eagle was on the brink of extinction throughout most of its range in the early 1970's; however, due to recovery efforts and the banning of DDT (dichloro diphenyl trichloroethane) pesticide, this species is returning to much of its historic range.

**Finding - No Effect/Minimal Effect/Moderate Effect.** Although suitable habitat for the bald eagle exists within the survey area, no individuals or evidence of nesting activities were identified within the survey area during field studies. Consequently, implementation of the proposed project is not likely to adversely affect this species. **OR** No large bodies of water are crossed by the project or are near the project corridor. Thus, suitable habitat for the bald eagle is not available within the survey area. Therefore, the proposed project is not likely to adversely affect this species.

- Invasive Species** – A qualified individual should conduct a site survey to determine whether or not invasive species are present within the project corridor. To complete this section, please see the invasive species documents at the end of this document. The following verbiage should be included in the CE:

In accordance with Executive Order 13112, a survey for populations of invasive species that may be spread during construction was conducted for this project. The invasive



species for which the survey was conducted are those, which have been, identified by the Department as having the highest priority due to environmental and economic impacts. Both the selected species and the management practices will be re-evaluated and revised as more information is obtained.

**[List of identified species, if any]**

During the construction process, the Department will take measures to prevent or minimize the spread of these species as appropriate for the time of the year. These measures will include removal and disposal of vegetative parts in the soil that may reproduce by root raking, burning on site any such parts and aboveground parts that bear fruit, controlling or eradicating infestations prior to construction, and cleaning of vehicles and other equipment prior to leaving the infested site. The measures used will be appropriate for the particular species and conditions that exist on the project, as described in Georgia Standard Specifications Section 201, Clearing and Grubbing of Right of Way.

10. **Other** – If your project has any other items you feel would fall under the category of Natural Environment they should be addressed here.

**D. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

1. **Noise** – While there may be an increase in noise during construction this question refers to noise issues as a result of the project. Most TE projects would not impact noise levels. Generally you would answer “Not Applicable.”

If you are concerned that your project would affect noise levels please contact the Project Manager.

2. **Air** - While there may be disturbance to air quality during construction this question refers to air quality issues as a result of the project. There are four pollutants that should be discussed in the CE:

- **Ozone** – Ozone Assessments are required for projects within the Ozone non-Attainment area (Please see map below).

If the project is within the Ozone non-attainment area, please include the following language:

**Ozone non-attainment area**



This project is in an area where the State Implementation Plan contains transportation control measures. Therefore, conformity procedures apply to this project. The Clean Air Act requires Transportation Plans and Transportation Improvement Programs in areas not meeting the National Ambient Air Quality Standards to conform to the emissions budget of the State Implementation Plan for air quality. The FT 2006-20011 TIP is the current adopted plan for the Atlanta region showing the region's highest transportation priorities. It was adopted by the Chattanooga TMA Board and was approved by the US DOT.

If it is not, please include the following language:

This project is in an area where the State Implementation Plan does not contain any transportation control measures. Therefore, the conformity procedures of the Final Conformity Guidance do not apply to this project.

- **Particulate Matter (PM) 2.5 - PM 2.5 Assessments** are required for projects within the PM 2.5 non-attainment area (Please see map below). While PM2.5 assessments are based on traffic volumes, TE projects do not affect capacity, so they are exempt from this assessment. The CE should include the following information in the CE Attachment 1, and the GDOT Program Manager should provide you with an email from the EPA approving the exempt status, with a dated list to show when the project was added to the list. Both the EPA email and the list should be attached to the Correspondence section of the CE. The project should be highlighted within the list.

**PM 2.5 non-attainment**

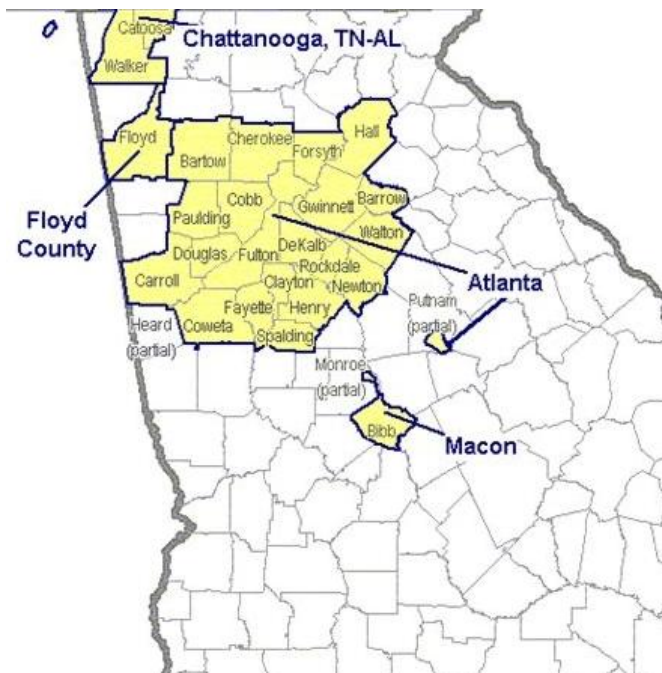
If your project is within the PM 2.5 non-attainment area, please include the following language:

This project has been submitted to FHWA as part of interagency coordination for projects that are within the non-attainment area, but are determined by GDOT to be exempt. The exemption was approved by FHWA as part of the PM 2.5 Exempt Project list dated **10.15.06** (see Attachment **X** – PM 2.5 Exempt Project list **10.15.06**).

If your project is not within the PM 2.5 non-attainment area, please include the following language:

PM 2.5 assessments are only required for projects of air quality concern within the PM 2.5 non-attainment area. Projects identified in Table 2 of 40 CFR Section 93.126, Exempt projects, do not have to perform a PM2.5 Project level conformity determination, i.e., hot-spot analysis.

Based on this project description the project would be exempt as an Air Quality project.



- **Carbon Monoxide (CO)** – are required statewide for projects exceeding the CO traffic threshold if the design year LOS is D, E, or F. Since TE projects would not affect capacity they are generally exempt from this.

Please include the following language:

The proposed project would not affect traffic volumes; therefore a CO Assessment would not be required.

- **Mobile Source Air Toxins (MSAT)** – MSAT Assessments are required statewide for all projects except those that are categorically excluded under 23 CFR 771.117(c) or 40 CFR 93.126. TE projects would be exempt, so the following language should be included:

This project will not result in any meaningful changes in traffic volumes, vehicle mix, location of the existing facility, or any other factor that would cause an increase in emissions impacts relative to the no-build alternative. As such, FHWA has determined that this project will generate minimal air quality impacts for Clean Air Act criteria pollutants



and has not been linked with any special MSAT concerns. Consequently, this effort is exempt from analysis for MSATs.

Moreover, EPA regulations for vehicle engines and fuels will cause overall MSATs to decline significantly over the next 20 years. Even after accounting for a 64 percent increase in Vehicle-Miles of Travel (VMT), FHWA predicts MSATs will decline in the range of 57 percent to 87 percent, from 2000 to 2020, based on regulations now in effect, even with a projected 64 percent increase in VMT. This will both reduce the background level of MSATs as well as the possibility of even minor MSAT emissions from this project.

3. **Energy/Mineral Resources** – Most TE projects would not affect either Energy or Mineral resources. Generally you would answer “Not Applicable.”

If you are concerned that your project would affect noise levels please contact the GDOT Program Manager.

4. **Construction/Utilities** – If it is determined that your project would cause inconveniences due to construction or the relocation of utilities please include the following verbiage:

Construction of the proposed project would create unavoidable inconveniences to motorists, but construction activities would be conducted in a manner that would maintain access and minimize conflict with traffic. The safety and convenience of the general public and residents of the area would be provided for at all times.

Any necessary relocation of utilities i.e., water, sewer, telephone, etc. would be accomplished with no long term interruption of services. All other required construction functions would be accomplished in a timely and orderly fashion to keep disruptions minimal and to avoid compromising safety.

5. **UST's** - If UST sites are identified within the construction work zone please include the following verbiage:

A survey for sites, which may contain hazardous materials, including soil and/or water contaminated by leaking underground storage tanks, has been conducted for this project.

[No sites were found.]

OR

[\_\_\_\_\_ sites which may contain underground storage tanks (UST's) were identified. Subsurface testing will be conducted to determine if any contaminants are leaking into the soil. If contaminants are found, avoidance alternates may be considered, or applicable laws and regulations concerning the removal of toxic or hazardous material will be followed and the removal coordinated with the Environmental Protection Division. Implementation of the proposed project will not preclude any necessary site remediation to be performed by others.]

OR

[\_\_\_\_\_ sites containing underground storage tanks (UST's) were identified and investigated, and \_\_\_\_\_ were found to be contaminated. Avoidance alternates

may be considered, or applicable laws and regulations concerning the removal of toxic or hazardous material will be followed and the removal coordinated with the Environmental Protection Division. Implementation of the proposed project will not preclude any necessary site remediation to be performed by others. **Discuss number of sites to be acquired, if known.**

6. **Hazardous Waste Sites** – If hazardous waste sites are identified within your project area please modify the text found in **5. UST's**.

**E. Permits/VariANCES/Commitments Required**

U. S. Coast Guard -- If a permit is required, contact the Aids to Navigation and Waterways Management Branch, 7th Coast Guard District, Miami, Florida, at 305-415-6755.

Forest Service/Corps land -- If permit is required, contact Forest Supervisor for specific forest or U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Branch, Savannah, Georgia.

Section 404 -- If a permit is required and your project is south of the line connecting Augusta and Columbus, contact U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Branch, Savannah, Georgia (1-800-448-2402). If your project is north of the line connecting Augusta and Columbus, call 678-422-2720.

## COUNTY LIST FOR REGIONS – INVASIVE SPECIES SURVEYS

CP= Coastal Plain  
 PD = Piedmont  
 BR = Blue Ridge (mountains)  
 NW = northwest area (Ridge and Valley and  
 Cumberland Plateau

Appling	CP
Atkinson	CP
Bacon	CP
Baker	CP
Baldwin	PD, CP
Banks	PD
Barrow	PD
Bartow	NW, PD
Ben Hill	CP
Berrien	CP
Bibb	PD, CP
Bleckley	CP
Brantley	CP
Brooks	CP
Bryan	CP
Bulloch	CP
Burke	CP
Butts	PD
Calhoun	CP
Camden	CP
Candler	CP
Carroll	PD
Catoosa	NW
Charlton	CP
Chatham	CP
Chattahoochee	CP
Chattooga	NW
Cherokee	PD, NW
Clarke	PD
Clay	CP
Clayton	PD
Clinch	CP
Cobb	PD
Coffee	CP
Colquitt	CP
Columbia	PD, CP
Cook	CP
Coweta	PD
Crawford	PD, CP
Crisp	CP
Dade	NW
Dawson	PD, BR
Decatur	CP
DeKalb	PD
Dodge	CP
Dooly	CP

Dougherty	CP
Douglas	PD
Early	CP
Echols	CP
Effingham	CP
Elbert	PD
Emanuel	CP
Evans	CP
Fannin	BR
Fayette	PD
Floyd	NW
Forsyth	PD
Franklin	PD
Fulton	PD
Gilmer	BR
Glascok	CP
Glynn	CP
Gordon	NW
Grady	CP
Greene	PD
Gwinnett	PD
Habersham	PD, BR
Hall	PD
Hancock	PD, CP
Haralson	PD, NW
Harris	PD
Hart	PD
Heard	PD
Henry	PD
Houston	CP
Irwin	CP
Jackson	PD
Jasper	PD
Jeff Davis	CP
Jefferson	CP
Jenkins	CP
Johnson	CP
Jones	PD, CP
Lamar	PD
Lanier	CP
Laurens	CP
Lee	CP
Liberty	CP
Lincoln	PD
Long	CP
Lowndes	CP
Lumpkin	BR, PD
McDuffie	PD, CP
McIntosh	CP
Macon	CP
Madison	PD
Marion	CP

Meriwether	PD
Miller	CP
Mitchell	CP
Monroe	PD
Montgomery	CP
Morgan	PD
Murray	NW, BR
Muscogee	PD, CP
Newton	PD
Ocone	PD
Oglethorpe	PD
Paulding	PD, NW
Peach	CP
Pickens	NW, BR, PD
Pierce	CP
Pike	PD
Polk	NW, PD
Pulaski	CP
Putnam	PD
Quitman	CP
Rabun	BR
Randolph	CP
Richmond	CP
Rockdale	PD
Schley	CP
Screven	CP
Seminole	CP
Spalding	PD
Stephens	PD, BR
Stewart	CP
Sumter	CP
Talbot	PD, CP
Taliaferro	PD
Tattnall	CP
Taylor	CP, PD
Telfair	CP
Terrell	CP
Thomas	CP
Tift	CP
Toombs	CP
Towns	BR
Treutlen	CP
Troup	PD
Turner	CP
Twiggs	CP
Union	BR
Upton	PD
Walker	NW
Walton	PD
Ware	CP

Warren	PD, CP
Washington	CP
Wayne	CP
Webster	CP
Wheeler	CP
White	BR, PD
Whitfield	NW
Wilcox	CP
Wilkes	PD
Wilkinson	CP
Worth	CP

**PROPOSED TOP PRIORITY INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES TO TARGET IN ECOLOGICAL SURVEYS**

Revised 10-00, approved 8-03

**PIEDMONT REGION:**

<u>COMMON NAME</u>	<u>BOTANICAL NAME</u>
Amur Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera maackii</i>
Autumn Olive	<i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i>
Chinese Privet (& European Privet)	<i>Ligustrum sinense</i> ( & <i>Ligustrum vulgare</i> )
Japanese Wisteria (& Chinese Wisteria)	<i>Wisteria floribunda</i> (& <i>W. sinensis</i> )
Japanese Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera japonica</i>
Johnsongrass	<i>Sorghum halepense</i>
Kudzu	<i>Pueraria montana</i>
Mimosa	<i>Albizia julibrissin</i>
Multiflora Rose	<i>Rosa multiflora</i>
Tree of Heaven	<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>

**COASTAL PLAIN REGION:**

<u>COMMON NAME</u>	<u>BOTANICAL NAME</u>
Chinese Privet (& European Privet)	<i>Ligustrum sinense</i> & ( <i>Ligustrum vulgare</i> )
Chinese Tallow Tree	<i>Sapium sebiferum</i>
Japanese Wisteria (& Chinese Wisteria)	<i>Wisteria floribunda</i> (& <i>W. sinensis</i> )
Cogongrass	<i>Imperata cylindrica</i> *
Common Reed	<i>Phragmites australis</i>
Japanese Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera japonica</i>
Johnsongrass	<i>Sorghum halepense</i>
Kudzu	<i>Pueraria montana</i>
Mimosa	<i>Albizia julibrissin</i>
Multiflora Rose	<i>Rosa multiflora</i>
Tree of Heaven	<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>
Water Hyacinth	<i>Eichhornia crassipes</i>

**BLUE RIDGE REGION:**

<u>COMMON NAME</u>	<u>BOTANICAL NAME</u>
Autumn Olive	<i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i>
Chinese Privet (& European Privet)	<i>Ligustrum sinense</i> ( & <i>Ligustrum vulgare</i> )
Japanese Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera japonica</i>
Johnsongrass	<i>Sorghum halepense</i>
Kudzu	<i>Pueraria montana</i>
Mimosa	<i>Albizia julibrissin</i>
Multiflora Rose	<i>Rosa multiflora</i>
Princess tree	<i>Paulownia tomentosa</i>
Tree of Heaven	<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>

**RIDGE AND VALLEY/CUMBERLAND PLATEAU REGIONS:**

<u>COMMON NAME</u>	<u>BOTANICAL NAME</u>
Amur Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera maackii</i>
Autumn Olive	<i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i>
Chinese Privet (& European Privet)	<i>Ligustrum sinense</i> ( & <i>Ligustrum vulgare</i> )
Japanese Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera japonica</i>
Japanese Wisteria (& Chinese Wisteria)	<i>Wisteria floribunda</i> (& <i>W.sinensis</i> )
Johnsongrass	<i>Sorghum halepense</i>
Kudzu	<i>Pueraria montana</i>
Mimosa	<i>Albizia julibrissin</i>
Multiflora Rose	<i>Rosa multiflora</i>
Princess tree	<i>Paulownia tomentosa</i>
Tree of Heaven	<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>